



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

## Regional Advisory Councils Federal Subsistence Board

July 24, 2002



Forest Service

### Background

In January 2002, the Department of the Interior (DOI) requested that the Federal Subsistence Board review procedures used to select members for the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (Councils). This review ensures compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), which governs Federal Advisory Committees nationwide and is part of a larger national level review of DOI Advisory Committees. The review found that some changes should occur in the composition of the 10 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. In general, FACA requires that Advisory Committees “be fairly balanced in terms of points of view and functions.”

### The changes proposed by the Federal Subsistence Board are:

- Increase membership on most councils: The total number of council members should be increased in nine of the 10 councils. There will be a total of 13 members in the Southeast, Southcentral, and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Councils and 10 members in the Kodiak/Aleutians, Bristol Bay, Western Interior, Seward Peninsula, Northwest Arctic, Eastern Interior, and North Slope Councils. Current membership ranges from seven to 13 members.
- Change the council composition: Ensure that 70% of the council seats will represent subsistence interests, while 30% will represent commercial and recreational hunting and fishing interests. For example, councils with ten members will have seven members representing subsistence and three members representing commercial and recreational interests.
- All council members will continue to be residents of their council region as required by Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). All members must be knowledgeable about subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region. Council members may be either rural or urban residents of their respective regions.

### When do these changes take place?

These changes do not take place immediately. After approval by the Department of the Interior, these changes will be phased in over a three-year period starting in 2003. By 2006, the proposed changes to the composition of the Regional Advisory Councils will be completed.

The councils provide recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board on matters related to the regulation and management of fish and wildlife used for subsistence purposes on the Federal public lands in Alaska.

**For more information**, please contact Tom Boyd at the Office of Subsistence Management, (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3403 (Tom\_Boyd@fws.gov), or fax (907) 786-3898 or write the Office of Subsistence Management, 3601 C Street, Suite 1030, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. TTY users may call through the Federal Relay Service (800) 877-8339. Please visit our home page, <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>.